

Editorial

Are We Playing Ostrich In Alkali?

(contributed)

In recent years a great deal of attention has been given problems of soil conservation. Books have been written about the harmful effects of erosion. In Alberta we have heard a lot about wind erosion. We have been told plenty about means of controlling soil drifting. Both nature and man has brought it to the attention of our eyes and ears.

But while this has been going on a more insidious foe of our wealth has seeped in at our feet. At least this is so in the district around Raymond. This thief of our wealth is uncontrolled irrigation water with attendant loss of land through water logging and alkali. In an area north of the irrigation canal to the limits of the fifteen mile lake and east and west between nine mile lake Stirling

an accurate survey would disclose that at least ten percent of our land will have to be reclaimed from a present TOTAL loss.

This is a community crime to which present owners and tenants will have to answer. Intelligent controls and operation would have prevented it!

And the end is not yet! The percentage of lost land is on the increase in spite of our ostrich-like attitude. But we are not burying our heads in sand, but in cattails and alkali.

This is a threat to Raymond's total economy. Our existence as a thriving community is at stake. What are we going to do about it?

Poverty is having to do without things that your grandparents didn't even know existed.

HISTORY OF RAYMOND

By ELIZABETH KING

THE ALLRED BROTHERS

The Allred family were early pioneers of Raymond and have labored faithfully and well for the betterment of the community and church to which they belong.

J. Urban Allred taught seminary in those early pioneer days. He also served a long term mission in the Southern States and a short term mission in the North Central States, returning March 19, 1932. He was counselor to Bishop John F. Anderson.

J. G. Allred served as the 11th Bishop in the Raymond first ward with T. J. O'Brien and James E. Meeks as counselors. He was president of the Western States Mission for several years. He also served a short term mission, Minneapolis being headquarters.

Clarence E. Allred is still a resident of Raymond and is a real booster for the town and its people. In 1930 Clarence was first counselor to Bishop Heber F. Allen. He has served two long term missions for his church, one to the Southern States under the late Apostle Melvin J. Ballard.

Clarence is well known for his friendliness and his kindness to the sick and home bound.

REMINISCENCE

It is 9 a.m., Monday morning, October 28, 1946 in Raymond, Alberta, where I am visiting with my brother Clarence. As I sit at my desk and look out on the land scape it is a scene of dread winter. Snow near 18 inches deep beneath which is mud from recent heavy rains which greatly hampers travel and entirely brings to a standstill the efforts of a busy anxious people to complete the harvest of a splendid beet crop, of which a large percentage is still out lying under this heavy covering of snow at this rather late period of the fall.

Such a condition as forces this district this morning could easily be a complete surrender and discouragement to many but not this people and to this generation. We have seen storms before and we know the power of come back to this land.

We have seen these broad prairies respond to our touch and become fruitful farms. Our homes, our towns wit hall their public and private facilities and comforts have been



built out of successes under divine help that have come out of adverse weather conditions which has called for the best in man and woman to combat, enduring effort, work and unflinching faith in a divine Providence.

Stout hearted men co-operated in their efforts and activated by these high motives have built and are building today a better world. Hope is a great emotion. It is a happy condition when men can largely forget their licking and look forward to next year to the best crop ever. Casting another glance at the conditions outside I note that nature is our friend—sunshine and wind are now at work and give hope that we will soon see good weather and dry land again.

As I try to review the past, I can remember that this storm is unique. More snow for an October storm and less cold. Speaking of storms I remember our hardest winter of 1907.

This winter commenced in November with a fall of about 7 inches of snow which soon froze and crusted so that the cattle in the fields soon wore off all the hide on the inside of their front feet 6 inches above the hoof until they could not be moved without help.

In 1907 I was teaching the first Seminary in Stirling the two previous winters. During this never-to-be forgotten severe winter, especially for the live stock men, the Knight Sugar Company, with others, had many cattle close to town. The losses were heavy because of the long cold winter and the frozen snow which covered the grass. I suggested to Ray Knight that I had a large stack of straw in a stock yard in my field next to where he had a large number of cattle and that if the straw was hauled to the cattle or the cattle driven to the straw it might take them through until a break in the weather. Ray went out and investigated and came back and said, "I cannot get the straw to the cattle nor can I move those cattle to the straw". Many of those poor cattle froze in their tracks and the next spring men came from the States to gather their hides. Today we have learned some valuable lessons and we hope, solved some of our problems. The time is at hand when we can have plenty of good soft weather within our homes and our homes can be modern.

In our early days we had to start at scratch, many a husband found it difficult to fill his part of the agreement to furnish wood, water and grass, if his wife would do the rest. All three articles were scarce, especially water. Wells were hard to get and generally would not last long because of mineral water seepage which made well water unfit. So most of our water had to be hauled in barrels.

Everybody good naturedly fit into the picture and routine of the community. I remember our good neighbor, B. S. Young, now deceased, who came with his family in early days and was one of our greatest entertainers, who owned and published our town paper for some time, moved to Lethbridge, where he was blase, used to say in his thirst, "Gordon, chop me a drink". Those were our pioneer days of less than 50 years ago.

Those who builded were unselfish men and women. They are nearly all gone, their numbers are few who now remain. What they did was a preparation for a better way of life for the present generation.

The greatest possessions of our forefathers—these early pioneers is the unseen—a great community spirit whose only limitations was the limit of material means. Where else can be found better public buildings, church houses and schools?

I shall never forget the enthusiasm that actuated the building of our Opera House at a time when the people had little of spare money but thru their efforts an Opera House, second to none was built, and which has paid high dividends to the members of this community, for it has been for our public gatherings that new hope has been kindled and our public life has been rebuilt. With the coming and passing of years to be amid all the conflict and changes which men may suggest let us not forget the foundation upon which they, our fathers builded and builded so unselfishly.

J. U. Allred.

March 15th, 1948.

Dear Mrs. King:

You have asked me to help you in your big and good job of writing the History of our town and people. Your writings in the Recorder are good.

Our forty-sixth birthday in Raymond is here. My father James Allred and a younger brother Rodney landed in agrath where we intended to make our homes. We had made the first payment on land north and west of the town. The weather was bad with snow and we stayed with friends a few days. The word came from Raymond that the Sugar Factory could not be built (as planned) that summer of 1902, and that the lands that had been prepared the year before for sugar beets could be put into grain by the newcomers that year. We moved our stock back to Raymond, put in 8 acres of land just west of the town. But the weather turned dry and before the people got their crop in the land was so dry the grain would not come up. The people had worked long and hard (there were no eight hour days then) I will not forget how hard the people worked in this new land.

Sunday, and church was over but before we closed the service, Apostle John W. Taylor said to Bishop Knight "I would like to say a word."

He said, "Your people are a little discouraged because of the dry weather. We shall have rain plenty." Before the week was over the storm started with lightning and thunder. For several days the rain was heavy. People will remember and will call 1902 one of the wettest and best years. Many new comers. And Raymond was called the Tented City.

There were few houses in town but we did have a big frame store and hotel. And in this store was a big wooden box where the mail was dumped from the mail bags and people came and got their mail.

There was another big water box in the street in front of Ray Knight's home (now May Meeks home) where water had been piped from the spring south of town. From this tank people hauled their water in wooden barrels.

Let me tell you a little about our parties. The benches in the little church were easy to move. Brother Kiddle (Eddie's father) on the fiddle and his daughter Lily played the organ. The two players, organ and all could come in a single buggy from their home in Stirling and play. We had plenty of dancing, a little program and sometimes a lunch. Those were the days.

Harvest days come. Fine crops, good wheat, worth 50 cents a bushel. This wheat was pulled by a horse, one sack at a time, to the top of the partly built mill and dumped in bins. What a difference from the way our grain is handled now.

What a difference in our way of travel. Forty-six years ago the horse and buggy was tops. Today 75 miles an hour is not enough.

Some change in our town from the little church with the small crowd. Raymond is a town of churches and people can go to the one they like. We are well fed and have all we need. Raymond is a good place to live. Watch us grow in the next forty-six years.

C. B. Allred.

Low Rail Fares for Easter

Special fares for the Easter holiday period on the Canadian Pacific Railway Lines are announced by F. H. Ball, Agent at Raymond, Alberta. The low fares will be available from Thursday, March 25th, to 2 p.m., Monday, March 29th and will be good to return leaving destination up to midnight, of Tuesday, March 30th. On branch lines where there is no train service on March 30th, tickets will be valid to return on first available train thereafter.

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